

Message Text

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SUBJECT: ROMANIAN WAIVER HEARINGS

REF: BUCHAREST 4983

1. DISCUSSION ON U.S. BUSINESSMEN'S HUMAN RIGHTS CONVERSATIONS WITH ROMANIAN OFFICIALS OCCURRED DURING TESTIMONY BY MILTON ROSENTHAL.

2. ROSENTHAL FIRST REMARKED ON THE COOPERATIVE SPIRIT HE ENCOUNTERED AMONG ROMANIAN OFFICIALS AT THE RECENT JOINT ECONOMIC COUNCIL MEETING, CITING CEAUSESCU'S MEETING WITH U.S. MEMBERS WHILE THE CEMA MEETING WAS IN PROGRESS, AND CONCLUDING THAT THE ROMANIAN MARKET IS OPEN TO U.S. FIRMS.

3. RIBICOFF THEN ASKED WHETHER ROSENTHAL AND OTHER U.S. BUSINESSMEN WITH INTERESTS IN ROMANIA DISCUSS HUMAN RIGHTS
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WITH ROMANIANS. RIBICOFF COULD NOT UNDERSTAND WHY THE ROMANIANS WOULD DENY THEIR OWN CHURCHES FOREIGN FUNDS FOR REBUILDING, AND SAID HE THOUGHT BUSINESSMEN SHOULD MENTION HOW AMERICANS VIEW SUCH POLICIES.

4. ROSENTHAL REPLIED THAT AMERICAN BUSINESSMEN TAKE THEIR VALUES WITH THEM WHEN THEY TRAVEL ABROAD. ROSENTHAL SAID

HE TRAVELED FREQUENTLY, AND HE AND MOST U.S. BUSINESSMEN
KNOW THAT OFFICIALS IN OTHER COUNTRIES REALIZE THE GREAT
DIFFERENCES BETWEEN THEIR COUNTRIES AND OURS. BUT INDI-
VIDUAL BUSINESSMEN DO NOT FEEL THAT THEY HAVE ANY LEVERAGE
OVER THESE DIFFERENCES. THEY KNOW THAT IF THEY ARE CRITICAL
WHILE THEY ARE IN ANOTHER COUNTRY, THEY WILL HAVE TO LISTEN
TO CRITICISMS OF THE UNITED STATES IN REPLY. MOST BUSINESS-
MEN DO NOT WANT TO EXCHANGE LECTURES. HOWEVER, SITUATIONS
DO ARISE WHEN THE BARS TO FRANK CONVERSATION ARE DOWN, AND
WHEN THIS HAPPENS, "WE SPEAK OUT." CHRISTOPHER

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